THE ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT-ORA-TORICAL CONTEST AND THE AWARDING OF PRIZES.

The first four days of this week were devoted to the annual commencement of the S. W. P. University. Commencement week is always a gala occasion in Clarksville. The people of this city take much pride in having this famed institution of learning located in their midst, and the excellent reputation it bears abroad draws many visitors to its closing exercises.

The commencement of 1886 has been University increases in prosperity. At tion. the begining of the past session three new professors were added to its faculty, spoke on the "Relations of Intellectual and the school of theology, under the and Moral Culture." A good portion management of Dr. Joseph R. Wilson, of the speech was directed to drawing a put in operation.

THE SERMONS.

It is the custom to have the commencement sermon preached by a distinguished divine from a distance, but this year it was delivered by the venerable and revered Chancellor of the University, Dr. J. N. Waddel, at the special request of the students. The selection was a most excellent one and very gratifying to the large congregation that assembled in the Presbyterian church Sunday. Dr. Waddell is widely known throughout the Southern States and held in very high esteem. He took his text from Jer. III: 4: "Will thou not from this time cry unto me, My father thou art the guide of my youth?" The sermon was an exhortation to the young gentlemen of the University to devote themselves to a religious life, particularly to shun the materializing influences of modern science and walk in the orthodox paths of Christianity. The most wraped attention was given by the congregation and the words of the preacher more than ordinarily impressed the young minds that have learned to hold him in such high regurd.

Rev. Dr. Bryson of Huntsville, Ala., preached the sermon to the Young Men's Christian Association of the University in the Presbyterian church Sunday night. His text was I Peter, 3, 15: Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. The sermon was compact and logical but none the less interesting on that account. It was attentively listened to and created a fine impression.

MONDAY NIGHT

was devoted to the oratorical contest between the Washington Irving and first public effort. Stewart Societies, each society being represented by two of its members.

their subjects: G. A. Wood, of the Stewart Society, led off in a scholarly essay on the "Development of Literature."

W. F. Dowd, Wnshington Irving Society, "The Eloquence of Ruins." W. L. Frierson, Stewart Society,

"The Monument." G. W. Patterson, Washington Irving Society, "The Mastery of the West."

The CHRONICLE was not present and consequently can give no comments.

The medal for the best speaker was given Mr. Patterson. We have heard promised to be a very good one, but he Mr. Dowds speach very highly complimented.

The Stewart Society gave J. K. Atley finish what he had begun so well. its medal for the greatest improvement in oratory, and that of the Washington discoursed on "A Resurected Past," Hicks.

TUESDAY NIGHT

Nine young gentlemen matched their oratorical powers in a contest for the speaker's medal.

The speaking came off in the accustomed place, Stewart Cabinet Hall, which was brilliantly illuminated and handsomely decorated for the occasion. An Italian band from Nashville opened the programme and enlivened the intervals between the speeches with excellent music.

Five young gentlemen decorated in the colors of the two literary societies of the University acted as ushers. They were T. N. Parker, Texas; T. H. Scoville, La.; A. H. McCain, Miss.; W. T. Palmer, Tex.; W. M. Bunting,

The exercises were opened with

prayer by Rev. Dr. King of Texas. excellence of their speeches, as a whole. It is not an empty platitude to say they did themselves much honor and reflected credit on their alma mater. They all, without exception, gave evidence of self as an example, and intimated that don. of their speeches, and that deserves to last year had made him a better orator.

be commended. for the young collegians and has en- due acknowledgement. We are indeavored to show its good feeling by clined to believe that it is to some extaking a lively interest in their com- tent deserved, because his speech this mencement exercises. The sensible year really did display a modicum of and liberal minded among them (and common sense. We are sorry, howevwe hope there are few to whom this er, that Mr. Patton could in any sense does not apply.) have shown that they consider the CHRONICLE his ene ny. The understood in the proper spirit our very reverse is true; this paper is inorkindly meant but sharp criticisms of dinately fond of Mr. Patton; it loves their orations in former years.

F. T. DANIEL

successful career.

"The Alladin's lamp, the Fortunates purse That opes the treasuries of the unive se Mr. Daniel's speech was on the whole in no way behind its predecessors. The very sensible and a creditable produc-

MR. J. R. HERNDON paralel between what he termed "true philosophy and materialism." Mr. Herndon is evidently a young man of rebel against the hardening ten lencies of the age. "Man," he said "it mateterial but he is more." He quoted a very pretty allegory from one of Munsey's sermons, and told of the sai death bed of a great German phil copher who had devoted his life to mate rialistic thought.

E. M. HICKS

was the next speaker to occupy the rostrum. His subject was of an interogatory character, and he attempted a solution of that rather ancient, but still mystifying conundrum, "Whither are we Drifting." The subject re-alled a reminiscense in the life of this writer. When he first mounted the tripod, a very young man, he wrote an editorial on this self same subject which he expected to electrify the world. Next day after the paper came out an unkind metropolitan contemporary said: "The Sumerville Falcon enquires whither drift we, a chromo for an answer." Mr. Hicks' speech was mainly devoted to a consideration of the dangers that beset popular government in America and a prophecy that our republic will remain steadfast. He is a very graceful speaker, and in the manner of his delivery was decidedly ahead of any of his competitors. R. Y. HICKS

chose for his subject "The Present the Index of the Future." The thread of the discourse was pretty much what the subject would indicate, and it was clothed in very flowery language with considerable indulgence in metaphor. Mr. Hicks appears to be quite young and the speech was a very good one for his Was commencement day proper. The

H. M. JOHNSON.

The following were the speakers and treated the audience to a very laterest- ary societies and the award of medals. ing character sketch of the great British thorough knowledge of contemporary English history. He regarded

'Disræli''as a true patriot and repudiat- fore the literary societies. ed the theory that he was a magnificent charlatan. Mr. Johnson had a good subject and treated it sensibly. He is mer making the delivery. lacking in the physical qualifications of

N. B. MATRIES' subject was "Genius." His speech seemed to have an exceedingly treacherous memory and he was unable to

T. M. SLEEPER Irving Society was confered on R. Y. He said "the further we recede from the ancient civilizations the more we know of them." He proceeded to show Supreme court of Texas and at present the great discoveries of archaeologists occupying a chair in the law departand antequaries and their benefit to the ment in the University of Texas. modern world.

T. T. TRIMBLE made the last speech, and, we think, the best one. He choses for his subject 'The Abuse of the Press," and treated it in a manner both interesting and instructive. He knows what a good newspaper ought to be and should take up journalism as a profession. With no disrespect to the other orators we will say that Mr. Trimble's speech was the only one delivered that would make a very readible article in print. It contained some rich humor and many serious points well put.

MR. J. H. PATTON

Elucidated the rather paradoxical theme "A Man's Enemies' His best The orators were arranged in a row Friends." "He who is without an eneon the platform. The CHRONICLE takes my is not worthy the recognition of pleasure in congratulating them on the men," was his opening sentance, and his object seemed to be to elaborate in a manner somewhat harsh the idea that

a man profits by adverse using. To demonstrate this he offered himmuch study and care in the preperation | the Chronicle's criticism of his speech We feel under obligations for the com-This paper feels a strong friendship pliment and take this means of making him with a white hot heat.

Some where in the ramifications of was the first speaker. His sub ect was his speech Mr. Patton said if he "Success," He showed that for so wanted to win flowers he would not young man he has excellent i leas of endeavor to get them by delivering a G. H. Steen, C. W. Trawick, W. B. what is necessary for the attainment commencement oration, but by murof that end at which we all aim in our dering in cold blood some innocent respective spheres of life. "The true key man. This was probably regarded by to success," he said "is labor and it can some as a startling antithesis, but it was be turned only by energy." After a not so intended. Mr. Patton evidently logical and sensible consideration of his meant that it would be more merciful, subject he summed up in corclusion and in comparison commendable, to that "perseverance, energy and pa- murder a man by some sudden process tlence" are the prime essentists of a instead of subjecting him to the torturing methed of one of his speeches. He made the inevitable allusion to Greece and Rome, spoke of Col. Jessee James, and apotheosized Milton and Grover Cleveland; they were all great because they had enemies.

"If you want to be president of the United States" he said, "you must split rails or walk the tow path." These performances were accredited respecttively to Lincoln and Garfield, but they would hardly fit the case of other occupants of the White House, John Quincy Adams, for instance. We have heard of men who did both of these things who didn't get to be president. The speaker J. K. Ottley, T. M. Sleeper, G. A. Woods. didn't explain what this remark had to do with "enemies."

In the midst of his eloquent outpouring Mr. Patton exclaimed: "If you would be a blessing to the world you must be an enemy." This is strange doctrine coming from a theological enemy" is not very Christian to say the least of it.

Mr. Patton is not among the very tender sprouts of the University. He seems to be fond of the school boy state and is devoting to it a good portion of the time men usually give to practical

There is beauty in extreme old age ; Do you fancy you are elderly enough? Information I'm requesting on a subject in-

teresting. Is a student all the better when he's tough ?"

He closed his speech with a noble resolve to become a great orator in spite of adverse criticism and circumstances. This is most commendable and we hope W. O. Gordon, E. T. Hollins, E. M. he will get out of school before he is Hicks, C. B. McLeod, N. B. Mathes, J. enjoy the success he will doubtless J. H. Patton, A. G. Payne, G. W. Patachieve. As the New York Sun once terson, W. F. Tims, G. A. Woods. said of a certain senator "He now only lacks several requisites of being a firstclass orator, he has a splendid voice." Perseverance will accomphish a great deal, but he must allow us to put in a mild protest on behalf of those on whom Capital Prize, \$150,000. he expects to practice.

WEDNESDAY

programme consisted of the delivery of diplomas, the alumni oration, confer-His subject was "Disrreli," and he ing of degrees, address before the liter-

The exercises were all of a very inter-Statesman. His oration evinced a very esting nature. Rev. C. E. Cunnigham careful study of the subject and a of Elizabeth, N. J., delivered the commencement oration and the Rev. Thos. Markham, D. D., made the address be-

The Spencer Greek medal was conferred on Mr. D. J. Brimm; Dr. Pal-Mr. J. H. Patton received the Speak-

an orator having a decidedly werk voice. er's medal. It was presented him by Rev. C. E. Cunningham.

Rev. S. L. Grigsby delivered the Mack biblical medal to A. G. Payne. DEGREES CONFERRED.

The degree of D. D. was conferred on Rev. J. H. Alexander, of Kosiasko, Miss., and Rev. Luther McKenna, President of Davidson college, N. C. The degree of LL.D., was conferred on Judge Robt. S. Gould, ex-Chief Justice of the

MASTER OF ARTS. J. R. Herndon, T. M. Sleeper. BACHELOR OF ARTS. 2 2

E. M. Hicks, H. M. Johnston. BACHELOR OF PHILOSOPHY.

W. M. Anderson, F. D. Daniel, J. N BACHELOR OF SCIENCE.

C. W. Trawick. COMMERCIAL SCIENCE. J. K. Ottley, H. Richardson.

GRADUATES IN SCHOOLS AND DEPART SCHOOL OF ANCIENT LANGUAGES. D. J. Brimm, E. W. Ford, W. O. Gordon, J. R. Herndon, E. T. Hollins, H.

SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES. German-J. R. Herndon, C. W. Tra-

M. Jonston, J. N. Lyle, G. H. Steen,

French-J. F. Boatrite, D. J. Brimm, J. J. Conroy, F. D. Daniel, W. O. Gor-

LATIN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE. J. E. Boatrite, J. J. Conroy, W. F. Dowd, W. L. Frierson, E. M. Hicks,
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Ethics and Political Economy-D. S. Bloch, E. W. Ford, S. E. George, N. B. Mathes, N. H. McCain, J. H. McGee, J. K. Ottely, T. N. Parker, T. H. Scovell, T. T. Trimble.

SCHOOL NATURAL SCIENCES. T. M. Sleeper, C. W. Trawick.

Natural Philosophy-F. L. Allen, J. E. Boatrite, W. F. Dowd. Chemistry-J. R. Herndon, J. H.

folia, C. C. Parrish, B. A. Patch, N. Smyle, T. T. Trimble, P. C. West, G. A. Woods.

Geology and Minerology.-E. M. Hicks, H. M. Johnston, G. A. Woods. IN THE SCHOOL OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

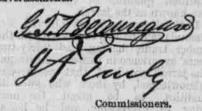
AND RHETORIC. F. D. Daniel, E. C. Ellett, E. W. Ford, W. L. Frierson, J. R. Herndon, R. Y. Hicks, H. M. Johnston, S. B. Kennedy, English Literature-E. T. Hollins, way. C. B. McLeod, T. N. Parker, J. H. Patton, W. G. White.

Rhetoric.-D. S. Bloch, L. Bowman, R. F. Bunting, W. M. Bunting, M. C. Caufield, J. J. Conroy, H. Cummins, R. A. Haden, W. S. Hamiter, S. V student. For a man to start out pre- Hughston, W. H. A. Johnson, A. L. meditatedly and maliciously to "be an Major, J. A. McEachern, J. E. Mc-Clellan, T. B. Miller, W. T. Palmer, C. C. Parish, A. G. Payne, H. Petry, T. H. Rice, G. S. B. Scrogin, W. G. Stewart, J. M. Sykes, W. F. Tims, T. T. Trimble, J. R. Wilson.

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